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SOURCE Nachrichten fuer Ausserhandel.INTENSIFY REFORESTATION IN POLAND

The forested area of Poland today is barely 23 percent, and the actual area of exploitation less than 19 percent, of the country's land area. Average timber growth at present amounts to only 1.7 cubic meters per hectare. Polish forests yield between 10 and 12 million cubic meters of timber annually, whereas 20 million cubic meters could be obtained from the same area (7 million hectares) if the forests had not been so badly depleted before and during the war. Per-capita timber production currently amounts to about 0.56 cubic meter.

Lumber is one of Poland's most important raw materials. For this reason, afforestation of barren regions and unproductive arable areas, together with reforestation, was begun as early as 1945. In 1949, afforestation was 3.71 times that in 1946. From 1945 to 1949, 365,000 hectares of land were afforested and 100,000 hectares were seeded as forest reservations.

Under the Six-Year Plan, the value of timber production is to be increased by one third as compared with 1949. By 1955, production is to total approximately 13.5 million cubic meters of rough-hewn timber which, it is estimated, would be sufficient to meet the country's basic requirements. Poland will rank fifth in Europe in the production of pressboard. Moreover, 4 million cubic meters of fret-saw lumber, 2.8 million pieces of decorative furniture, 137,000 furniture suites, and 320,000 cases of matches are scheduled for production during 1955. About 245,000 hectares of cleared timber land are to be reforested. To the newly afforested area are to be added 90,000 hectares of now privately owned arable land, and 215,000 hectares of fallow land. Shelter belts are being laid out in regions where hydrological and climatic conditions require improvement.

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